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Soviet Resumes Tests of Orbital Bombing System

BV EVERT CLARK Special to The New York Times

The test of the orbital bombing system today was the ninth Russian space flight in 11 days,

the Russians known. launched the fourth in a somewhat mysterious group of flights that seem to be tests of a large, highly maneuverable new rocket stage.

In addition, Moscow has announced that "research ships" of the kind used to track and control manned flights have been dispersed to equatorial zones in the Atlantic and elsewhere indication that the statement of the statement o where, indicating that amanned flight is probably near.

Thought Tests Had Ended

The flurry of Russian launchings exceeds even that of last October, when the Soviet celebrated the 10th anniversary of space flight and the 50th anniversary of the Communist revolution by sending up 10 spacecraft in 19 days.

The spacecraft tested today, identified by the Societ University of the content of the content of the spacecraft tested today.

identified by the Soviet Union only as Cosmos 218, was the first in six months to involve the orbital bomb system. Many observers here had assumed the tests had ended.

As with two unsuccessful and nine successful tests of the bombing system in 1966 and 1967, the flight today was be-lieved to have tested only the orbital techniques. The craft apparently did not carry a

There is now speculation that

november related to EKO IMIN COMMACK - SUFFOLK NOLE ! TNUOM I ISLAND RKO PROCTOR'S 0029 6 HM (+16) MĂĦ RKO KEITH'S XNC (914) YO 8-1122 PKO PROCTOR'S REVEON WESTCHESTER

tracked more carefully by an failure of a rocket stage kept National Aeronautics and Space WASHINGTON, April 25—
The Soviet Union resumed testing of an orbital bombing system today, authoritative sources said. Other sources disclosed that a Russian attempt to send an unmanned space
The Soviet Union resumed its target after making only a fraction of a circuit of the earth. But an orbiting bomb with a powerful maneuvering stage attached could be suddenly diverted from the "storage" orbit and hurtled to send an unmanned space
The Soviet Union resumed its target after making only a from reaching an earth orbit last weekend. A similar mishap spoiled a Soviet attempt to send an unmanned craft are generating is something to give us real pause as a nation."

He has repeatedly predicted that the Soviet Union will soon fly a rocket booster larger than the Soviet Union will soon fly a rocket booster larger than

the most active period for any in the higher orbits to which nation since space flight began.

Yesterdav. the Russians in the higher orbits to which the spacecraft later climbed. From the war in Vietnam, have the Russians in the higher orbits to which budget cuts, resulting chiefly Webb predicted that the Soviet Union would seek more frequent launchings with its new

It is reported here that the

American space plans.

James E. Webb, head of the its other rockets.

opponent than one that struck the planned circumlunar flight Administration, told a Senate

closed that a Russian attempt age" orbit and hurtled to a to send an unmanned space-target so rapidly that an oppotent be soviet Union has accelered the American Saturn 5 moon craft around the moon failed nent would have great diffi- ated not only its launching rate rocket. This Saturn, the first last weekend. in recent months but also the to give this country a clear resources and the number of lead in space weight-lifting The first three maneuvering stage tests have left debris both in their initial orbits and the number of lead in space weight-ming ability, will be produced at the rate of only two a year after the first lunar flights. Mr. forced stringent curtailment of quent launchings with its new booster, as it has with most of